

Greg Lind SNR&E 2/12/07

# Montana State Senate

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES  
BILL NO. 1  
DATE 2-12-07  
BILL NO. SB195



**SENATOR GREG LIND**  
SENATE DISTRICT 50

HELENA ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 200500  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0500  
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:  
7383 HIGHLINE CT  
MISSOULA, MT 59808  
PHONE: (406) 542-5195  
sd50@montana.com

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE AND CLAIMS  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY - CHAIR  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

*The Big Sky Country*

February 6, 2007

Michael J. Hanson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
NorthWestern Energy  
40 East Broadway  
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I am writing to you in my capacity as a customer of NorthWestern Energy and as the Chair of the Montana State Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. With the importance of and interest in the future of energy in Montana, I would like some additional information with respect to the operations of NorthWestern Energy Corporation (d/b/a NorthWestern Energy).

Would you please provide my committee with specifics of your generation at Colstrip, Montana? The following paragraph is from the NWE website:

**"We lease a 30 percent share of Colstrip Unit 4, a 740-megawatt demonstrated-capacity coal-fired power plant in southeastern Montana, through our unregulated Colstrip Unit 4 Lease Management Division, and sell this share principally to third parties".**

I am specifically requesting the contracted allocation of your share (to whom), the expiration dates of the contracts (by contract), contract contingencies, renewal provisions and the price delivered power (by contract).

This information is critical to our understanding the complex regulatory proposals before this legislature and how they will interact with 330,000+ constituents.

Your timely response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Greg Lind  
Senate District 50  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Energy